

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (CANCELED)

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for screening a drug for at least one of prevention and treatment of cardiac failure, comprising a process of selecting a medicinal component that inhibits apoptosis induced by ASK1 protein and inhibits left ventricular remodeling induced by the ASK1 protein from a drug candidate compound, wherein the process includes at least one process selected from the group consisting of a process of selecting a medicinal component from a drug candidate compound by using inhibition of kinase activity of the ASK1 protein as an indication, a process of selecting a medicinal component from a drug candidate compound by using inhibition of autophosphorylation of the ASK1 protein as an indication, a process of selecting a medicinal component from a drug candidate compound by using inhibition of transcription translation of ASK1 gene as an indication, a process of selecting a medicinal component from a drug candidate compound by using inhibition of activity of a factor activating the ASK1 protein as an indication, and a process of selecting a medicinal component from a drug candidate compound by using inhibition of a factor activated by the ASK1 protein as an indication.

8-12. (CANCELED)

13. (ORIGINAL) The method for screening according to claim 7, wherein the factor activating ASK1 protein is at least one selected from the group consisting of Daxx, TRAF2, and calmodulin-dependent kinase II.

14. (CANCELED)

15. (ORIGINAL) The method for screening according to claim 7, wherein the factor activated by ASK1 protein is at least one selected from the group consisting of MKK3, MKK4, MKK6, MKK7, JNK, and p38 MAPK.

16. (ORIGINAL) A method for at least one of prevention and treatment of cardiac failure, comprising inhibiting a functional expression of ASK1 protein in a cardiomyocyte.

17. (ORIGINAL) A method for at least one of prevention and treatment of cardiac failure, comprising suppressing apoptosis of a cardiomyocyte induced by ASK1 protein.

18. (ORIGINAL) A method for at least one of prevention and treatment of cardiac failure, comprising inhibiting at least one of kinase activity of ASK1 protein in a cardiomyocyte, autophosphorylation of the ASK1 protein in a cardiomyocyte, and transcription translation of ASK1 gene in a cardiomyocyte.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for at least one of prevention and treatment of cardiac failure, comprising administering a pharmaceutically acceptable effective amount of ~~the drug for at least one of prevention and treatment of any one of claims 1 to 6~~ a compound that inhibits functional expression of ASK1 protein in a cardiomyocyte.

20. (ORIGINAL) A method for diagnosing cardiac failure, comprising measuring kinase activity or autophosphorylation of ASK1 protein in a cardiomyocyte.